

# ADAPTATIONS

Structural adaptations in animals are physical features that help them survive in their habitats. These can be inside or outside their bodies. Behavioural adaptations are actions that animals do to survive.

## Who Am I?

Cut out the descriptions and names 3 pages over and match them to the animals below.

Birds are animals with feathers, beaks, and wings. Young birds hatch out of eggs.



**Goshawk**

I have extremely good eyesight so I can hunt my prey. I am brown so I can camouflage in trees.



**Orange Bellied Parrot**

My bright feathers help me camouflage in grasslands and shrubs. I have a small beak to eat seeds and berries. I fly from the mainland every summer to breed in Tasmania.



**Owlet Nightjar**

I have huge eyes to see at night and soft feathers on my wings to fly silently. My beak is small to eat insects that I catch.



**Banded Lapwing**

I have long legs. I prefer to stay on the ground. I pretend to be injured when predators are around to lead them away from my chicks.

**Mammals** are animals with fur or hair.

Mammals are **endothermic** which means they can produce their own body heat.

Most mammals give birth to live young and feed them milk.

**Marsupials** are a type of mammal that keep their young in pouches.

One of the mammals below is not a marsupial. Can you find which?



#### **Feathertail Glider**

I am only the size of a mouse and move very quickly at night. I have a long tail shaped like a feather and skin between my elbows and knees that helps me glide between trees.



#### **Tammar Wallaby joey**

I am a macropod (that means I have big feet for jumping!) I spend the first few months of my life in Mum's pouch. I have big ears that always move to listen for predators and a long tail.



#### **Spot Tailed Quoll**

I have very sharp teeth for eating other animals and claws to climb and run. My spots help me camouflage in the bushes and my babies are only the size of a grain of rice when they are born!



#### **Dingo**

I am a carnivore so I have very sharp teeth. I also have a big bushy tail and upright ears. I live in a pack and we hunt together. We howl but do not bark. I can run very fast.

**Reptiles** are animals with scales. Most reptiles lay eggs, although some reptiles give birth to live young. Reptiles are **ectothermic**, which means they cannot change their body temperature and need to get heat from their surroundings.

**Amphibians** are animals who have moist skin. Their young are born in or near water and have gills. Adults have lungs and can go both on land and stay under water for long periods.



#### **Legless Lizard**

When people first see me, they think I'm another type of reptile as I only have tiny lumps where I should have legs and a very long tail. I like to eat insects. I have tiny holes for my ears.



#### **Golden Tree Snake**

I live in trees and can move very fast from branch to branch. I have no holes for ears but instead feel vibrations from my prey moving around. My tongue is forked at the end so I can taste the air.



#### **Eastern Water Dragon**

I have very sharp claws for climbing and a long tail I use when I drop into the water to chase prey. I have stripes to help me camouflage and spines along my back.



#### **Growling Grass Frog**

My colour helps me camouflage. I am a carnivore and not many people realise I have teeth! I live in or near water to keep my skin moist. Only males of my species make noise.

**Bird Adaptations**

My bright feathers help me camouflage in grasslands and shrubs. I have a small beak to eat seeds and berries. I fly from the mainland every summer to breed in Tasmania.

I have long legs. I prefer to stay on the ground. I pretend to be injured when predators are around to lead them away from my chicks.

I have extremely good eyesight so I can hunt my prey. I am brown so I can camouflage in trees.

I have huge eyes to see at night and soft feathers on my wings to fly silently. My beak is small to eat insects that I catch.

**Mammal Adaptations**

I am a macropod (that means I have big feet for jumping!) I spend the first few months of my life in Mum's pouch. I have big ears that always move to listen for predators and a long tail.

I have very sharp teeth for eating other animals and claws to climb and run. My spots help me camouflage in the bushes and my babies are only the size of a grain of rice when they are born!

I am a carnivore so I have very sharp teeth. I also have a big bushy tail and upright ears. I live in a pack and we hunt together. We howl but do not bark. I can run very fast.

I am only the size of a mouse and move very quickly at night. I have a long tail shaped like a feather and skin between my elbows and knees that helps me glide between trees.

**Reptile and Amphibian Adaptations**

My colour helps me camouflage. I am a carnivore and not many people realise I have teeth! I live in or near water to keep my skin moist. Only males of my species make noise.

I live in trees and can move very fast from branch to branch. I have no holes for ears but instead feel vibrations from my prey moving around. My tongue is forked at the end so I can taste the air.

I have very sharp claws for climbing and a long tail I use when I drop into the water to chase prey. I have stripes to help me camouflage and spines along my back.

When people first see me, they think I'm another type of reptile as I only have tiny lumps where I should have legs and a very long tail. I like to eat insects. I have tiny holes for my ears.

Now that you have described each animal, cut out the names and paste them above the correct descriptions.

<b>Eastern Water Dragon</b>	<b>Tammar Wallaby joey</b>	<b>Legless Lizard</b>
<b>Owlet Nightjar</b>	<b>Golden Tree Snake</b>	<b>Banded Lapwing</b>
<b>Feathertail Glider</b>	<b>Orange-bellied Parrot</b>	<b>Goshawk</b>
<b>Spot-tailed Quoll</b>	<b>Growling Grass Frog</b>	<b>Dingo</b>

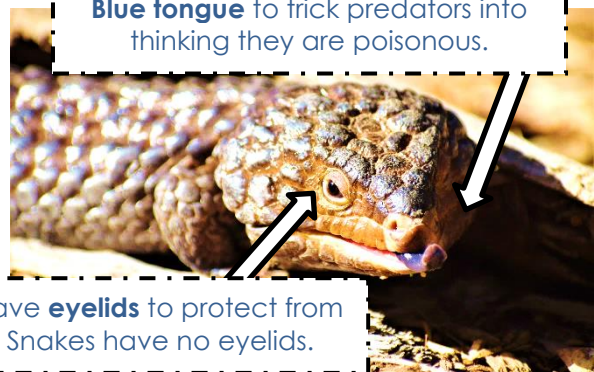
# ANIMAL AMBASSADOR ADAPTATIONS

Draw your animal ambassador below and label all its adaptations mentioned on the fact sheet and in the video.

Students can find information by watching the video resource and reading the fact sheet. For extra assistance they can be given this page.



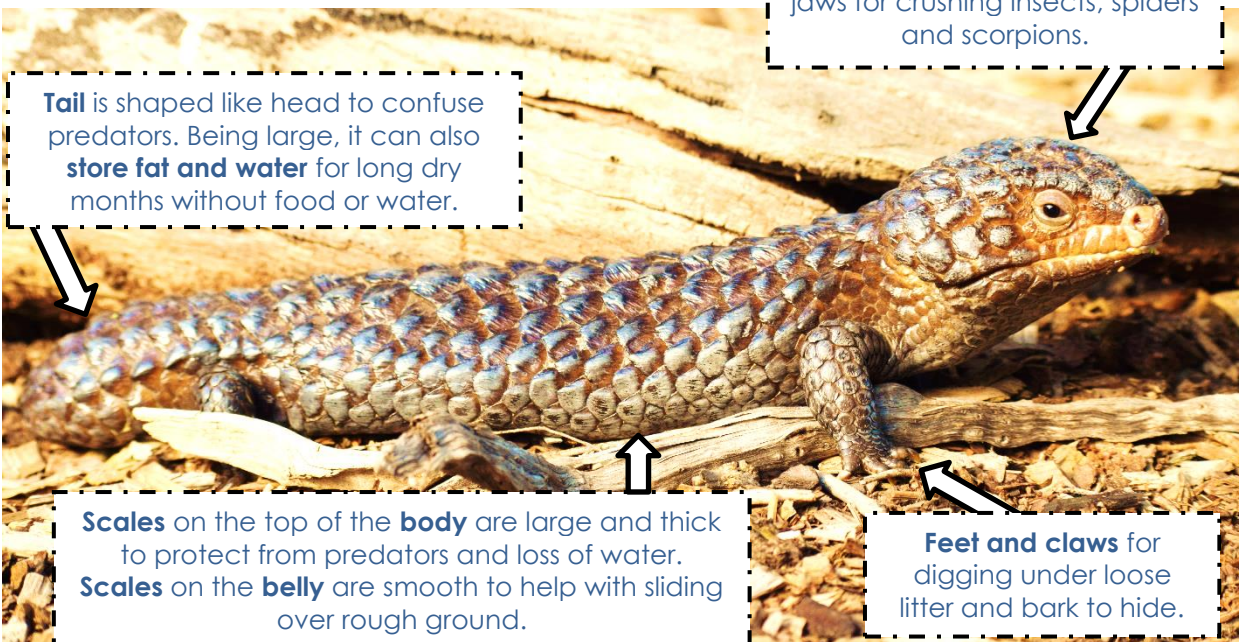
**External ears** for hearing. Unlike snakes who have no external ears.



**Blue tongue** to trick predators into thinking they are poisonous.

**Eyes** have **eyelids** to protect from dust. Snakes have no eyelids.

Large **head** with powerful wide jaws for crushing insects, spiders and scorpions.



**Tail** is shaped like head to confuse predators. Being large, it can also **store fat and water** for long dry months without food or water.

**Scales** on the top of the **body** are large and thick to protect from predators and loss of water. **Scales** on the **belly** are smooth to help with sliding over rough ground.

**Feet and claws** for digging under loose litter and bark to hide.

## Other Adaptations

- Their colouring helps with **camouflage**. Different patterns are found in different areas.
- Survival behaviour: avoid being seen by hiding under bark and leaves. Can wiggle tail and walk backward to confuse predators into thinking their tail is their head. If threatened will turn around open mouth wide, showing blue tongue and hiss.
- They give birth to large live young instead of laying eggs. This improves chances of survival for young.
- May be monogamous, finding the same mate each breeding season. This develops bonds between a pair and may provide protection to the female during breeding season.